

The Mind Flayer Presses present (unfortunately!):

THE BEHOLDER

MFP/APC/ZPI



This is a ~~poor excuse for~~ the January 26, 1979 issue of The Beholder, an abomination devoted to the play of postal Diplomacy, and published by John Kelley, Box 35, Klickitat, Washington 98628 USA. Phone (509)-369-4332. I am the GM for all games currently played herein, which are 1977-AG, 1978-HD, 1979-CG, HZ, IA.

Diplomacy games are open, and begin as soon as seven people sign up. To play, one must pay the gamefee (\$3 for a spot in Doppleganger, or \$2 for the last remaining spot in my blind game Hippogift!) and maintain the subscription to TB. Subscribers are welcome at a cost of 30¢ per issue (no more cost variations; all my issues are 10 p. anyway!); cheques should be made payable to John Kelley, as I discourage letting the government get its sticky fingers on cold cash. Subbers are invited to join the standby list; standbys must maintain a subscription, but can take over positions which have been discontinued, for no gamefee whatsoever. The list currently consists of Fleming, Russon, Van Alkemade, Watson, Cusack, Ashley, Hickey, Kreissl, Gibson, Kelly, and Masters.

How bout a few quick plugs? Nah. I don't like to worry about digging up all the pertinent info. That is, besides Rod Walker's 'John Bardman is a Toad' contest. Entries are to be 8 x 11 drawings of comically hideous toads, to be used on 'J.B.'s a T' T-shirts, to be delivered before Dipcon next year. The winner will get a freebie. Rod Walker, 1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024.

More good news: I'm giving up on the 1979-E commentary. It was painfully obvious to me at least that I didn't have the will, materials, or tactical ability to do it. So that's down the drain. And good riddance, I say. I'll get correspondence files returned when I can.

I used to look forward to my mail every day. Now I dread it. Every time I turn around, some loud-mouthed ape has something to gripe about. I now curse the day I began publishing. I try and try to improve, and to be fair, but it doesn't matter. Same constant griping. (Turns around, with gleam of anger in eyes) This is to those of you who just can't seem to keep me off your hate list. (No one who has been kind to me should consider this next as addressed to you, and Jim Lynch, you're exempt too, because you are sorry. Only those who keep hollering are to take this imminent tongue-lash~~ing~~.) I wish I had never tried to publish, tried to improve, or tried to be objective about problems. You heartless, apathetic fools. I got so frustrated I nearly broke my hand on the wall. Just last night, I watched my mom carried in the house on a stretcher. My band teacher got on my case today, and so did the principal and half-a-hundred other people. It's all I can do to keep from throwing this machine out the window. I wonder how long I will be able to take this mental strain. Who knows, before long I may be strapped to a bed in the looney-bin, for mine and everybody else's own good. I am beginning not to care whether I go to heaven or hell, as long as I can go.

I hope you are happy, having me as a whipping-boy. One thing for sure. Once I get my games finished, it's good-bye zine. All I wanted to do was publish a zine. I didn't start this to be yelled at, and I'm not going to take it any more! Next time, I'll just tell the offender where to go, and be done with it. And never, never, never will I ever take another orphan. Never again will I try to do a few players a service like that. It's all I can do to keep my language out of the gutter right now.

Thanks to all of you who say/have said kind words and given encouragement. Those of you who have simply been silent I also thank, for NOT yelling at me. The others--they know how I feel. I wonder if it's painful to blow your brains out.

Regarding the blind game: it seems that several identities have been blown. Therefore, it is no longer (I must thank Mark Berch for his over-the-phone help) a true blind game. So I suggest we play this as regular Diplomacy. The mistake that a couple people made was telling anyone at all they were in the game, and it's their fault. Anyone who wants out may now have a refund of gamefee if he/she/it wishes. Someday I might open another game, but I'd be afraid that the same thing might happen again. If and only if I get no objections from any players, it will stay a blind game. One objection from a player who wants to stay in the game and it will immediately become standard Diplomacy.

In issue #13 a new set of houserules will appear, not to be changed radically for some time. Right, I'm still at it. So, for two months, if you have any suggestions, make them heard. I will put together all the input I get in formulation of the new rules in #13. So now I'm doing things the democratic way. Key points I need suggestions on are season separations, anonymous neutral orders (which have two strikes against them to start with), whether NMRed units ought to be allowed to retreat, etc. Players, be heard!

FLASH! Lee Kendter, 4347 Benner St., Philadelphia, PA 19135, is the new Boardman Number Custodian!! For the newcomer's info, Lee is maybe second only to John Boardman in reliability, and certainly head and shoulders above him in personality. He's one of the best, and you should all support and encourage him. You should also send a \$1 donation with each BN request; the job is thankless (which is a facet you and I should change!), payless, and a unifying force in the hobby. Write him a letter of support today! Believe me, when you're doing a job like that, it makes all the diff in the world!!

Thanks for the few letters of compliment I've gotten recently. They make life a lot easier.

By the way, all paying subbers should take note that I now write the expiration date of your subscription on the last page of the zine.

Volkerwanderung, a fledgeling zine, has been faked! I first heard it publicaly from Eggnog, but am proud to say I figured it out before anyone said it publicaly. The postmark is Van Nuys, CA. I speculate wildly looking at the type of type and state from which it was mailed, that it could have been John Masters (I'm not accusing anyone, but I have a hunch). It was a fair fake re-content, and the cover and format was very well done, but the faker did one stupid thing, marring the general fun spirit of it. He said that all trades with V were cut. This had me shook up, and was a poor thing to include. The Fol Si Tie faker did no such things (did you Randolph?!).

To Kick off the games: 1979-HZ, guys, must be delayed. Andy didn't get TKDB until just barely in time to submit orders, and in a demo game one must be able to conduct Diplomacy. So the new deadline is 18 Feb 79. Orders on file from everyone. By the way, Randolph and Lee (Kendter) would you like to be standbys for this game? Let me know.

Yes, Robert, Doppelganger finally got going! Here's the motley crew:
 Austria: Jack Fleming, 5000 22nd Ave NE, #211, Seattle, WA 98105.
 England: Garry Fairbairn, CP Room 502, 315 Tenth Ave., SE, Calgary,
 Alberta T2G 0W2.
 France: Barry C. Hickey, Apt. B, 670A St. Clair Ave W, Toronto, Ont. M6C 1A7.
 Germany: Robert Goldberg, 1663 Nanberry Rd., Encino, CA 91436.
 Italy: John Davies, R. R. 2, Hope, BC V0X 1L0.
 Russia: Randy Henn, 2401-30th Ave., Vernon, B.C. V1T 2B2.
 Turkey: Bob Albrecht, #2-2005-23rd St., N, Lethbridge, Alta T1H 4K3.

Not at all bad geographically. Anyway, this is my next-to last game for some time. The last one, Ettin, has a gamefee of \$4.00. The deadline for Spring 1901 shall be 22 March 1980, unless all players wish that it be played on 23 February 1980. For the novice, this is a postal tradition. Let's see how well you guys can stab!

Boardman #, please, Lee. The \$1 donation is enclosed. 1977-AG, held up this time. There have been several moans and gripes that the France fleet Mid ought to be able to retreat. Neither was very polite, and if deep down I didn't have a sense of justice, I'd just tell them where to go. But I won't. So, I shall consult the CDO OAC, since the ombudsman is in the game. This sheet is going to John Leeder and Ralph Morton, not to mention Julian Presber. Here's the pertinent information, gentlemen: Last season a unit of a NMRed country was dislodged. I ruled according to the Rulebook that it was annihilated. The question (since I had no house-rules worth using, those are out of the problem) is whether I should allow the retreat. No warning was given the players about this policy. I will abide by the decision of the majority; for now, this game is held up pending resolution of the problem. I have orders on file from all but F. By the way, I goofed in the adjudications. Italy has A Mar, not F Mar. You should send revised orders in. Just thought of something. I can't ask Julian's opinion on the game, because he was once a player. And yes, Francis, I could use yearly SC charts and player chart for this game. Thanks.

1978-HD, pre-Fall 1906: HAM-HANDED GM STRIKES AGAIN!!

Gonzo here just screwed up. Germany has F Hwy, not F Den as listed. Please take notice. By the way, Jerry has resigned; will Jack Fleming, address last issue (so are the other's, Jack), please play Germany now? Both draws failed; a proposal for a FT draw has been put forth. If it passes, of course, next season will not be played and Jerry will be the final player of record. No player ought to be credited with a position he never submitted orders for. Sorry guys; at any rate, the deadline for Fall 1906 is now 23 Feb 80. Since Jerry is out, however, Jack may vote. I have orders on file for everyone (except Jack, of course).

Now wait a minute. If Jerry is out, resigned, gone, poof, bye-bye, and Jack can vote (which he should of course be allowed to), then Jack has to be the player of record. Yeah, that's right.

Jim, Tom & Tom are each one issue in arrears; since your sub credits may not be clear to you, I'll give one issue's grace. You all owe me one issue. If you want you can send cheques whose sashing is conditional upon the draw results.

1979-IA, Spring 1901: what a bunch of chickens! Hardly any wars start!

Austria (Denver McLeod): A Bud-Ser, A Vie-Gal, F Tri-Alb.
 England (Dave Carter): F Edi-Nwg, F Lon-Nth, A Lpl-Edi.
 France (Bob Albrecht): A Par-Bur, A Mar S A Par-Bur, F Bre-Mid.
 Germany (Nick Russen): F Kie-Hol, A Ber-Kte, A Hun H.
 Italy (Douglas Werfel): A Rom-Ven, A Ven-Vie, F Nap-Tyn.
 Russia (Dave Jeatherhead): F Sov-(?) Rus, F Sov-(?) Rus, A Mos-Ukr, A Sov-Gal.
 Turkey (Russ Fugh): A Can-Edu, A Sov-Can, F Can-Fugh.

IA press, ad so forth:

Paris-Moscow: Down, Set, Squeeze Play!

Italy-Germany: Hock der Kaiser! Beware the Ides of March, Caesar.

Italy-France: Buffer zone agreed to. Disregard my last communiqué.

Italy-Austria-Hungary: I keep my agreements. I will maintain strict neutrality viz-a-viz the Balkans, also.

Italy-Trukey: Don't show your fez anywhere near Tunis.

Italy-World: Prime Minister Zanardelli, on behalf of his Royal Majesty Victor Emmanuel III, announced that Italy is dedicated to peace and will fight aggression wherever it is found. Foreign diplomats in Rome applauded the announcement and were known to believe that the Prime Minister will follow through at least as long as Italy's best interests are served.

Joint Communiqué: From the Empire of Austria and Apostolic Kingdom of Hungary and the Kingdom of Italy: In the interest of world peace, both parties have declared Tyrolia and the Adriatic Sea as neutral territories. We urge all nations to respect this international agreement.

Ankara-Rome: You have been negotiating in Bad Faith, therefore prepare to meet thy maker! ALLAH ABKAR!! Death to the Non-Believers!!

Mind Player: I wonder if the Ayatollah Khomeini is playing this game pseudonymously...

Constantinople-All: The reports of the deaths of Midhat Pasha and Osman Pasha, Grand Vizier and Pasha Ghazi-al-Islam, respectively, is part of a vicious smear-campaign by Italy. Their heinous claims has no basis in fact; we can assure the world that Midhat and Osman are very much alive and well here at Pilditz. ((?))

KAISER DENOUNCES TSAR!! (UPI): The Kaiser, in his address to the Reichstag today, declared war upon the Tsar of Russia. He stated that the Tsar had designs upon Scandinavia and the Balkans which Germany could not allow. He has ordered the mobilization of the German Armies.

Note that Bob Albrecht has a COA to #2-2005-23rd St N, Lethbridge, Alta T1H 4X3. Doug says he will object to black press; well, that's out of my hands unless everyone in the game agrees. Press should always be taken with a whole shaker of salt anyway; it's a vehicle for fun, not negotiation, and should be treated as such.

Fall 1901 is due 23 Feb 80.

1979-CG, Fall 1902: THEY'RE TEARING AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS...

Austria (Nick Russon): A Bud-Tri, A Ser S A Bud-Tri, A Vie-Tyo, F Gre-Bul(sc).

England (Gerry Van Alkemade): F Nth-Nwy, F Swe S German F Kie-Bal, F Iri-Mid, F Eng S F Iri-Mid, A Bel-Pic.

France (Clive Tonge): F Mid-NAt, A Pic S A Mar-Bur, A Par S A Mar-Bur, A Gas-Bre, A Mar-Bur.

Germany (Markus Rostig): A Mun S A Ruh-Bur, A Rul-Bur, A Sil-Boh, F Den S Russian F Bot-Swe/nsn/nsu/, F Kie-Bal, A Den u/o, H.

Italy (François Cuerrier): A Tyo S A Tri A Tri S Austrian A Vie, A Ven S A Rri, F Ion-Adr, F Tun-Ion. ((Four errors; am I senile?))

Russia (Trevor Baillie): F Ska-Nwy, F StP(nc) S F Ska-Nwy, F Rum-Sev, A Mos S F Rum-Sev, A Gal-War, A Boh-Tyo.

Turkey (Bob Albrecht): A Sev S A Sev/imp/, A Bul & Italian A Tri-Ser/nsn/, F Bla S A Sev, F Aeg-Gre.

Centre chart:

A(4): Bud, Vie, Ser, Gre; even.

E(5): Home, Bel, Swe, Nwy; even.

F(5): Home, Por, Spa; even.

G(5): Home, Den, Hol; even.

I(5): Home, Tun, Tri; even.

R(5): Mos, War, StP, Rum, Zey, Zyc, Nwy; remove one.

T(5): Home, Bul, Sev; build one.

All CG players should note Bob's COA on page 4. Here's the press:

Vienna: The Imperial Austrian army has initiated an advance into the Tyrolian highlands to expel the brutal Eyetalian guerrillas who assaulted the Border guards last year. At the same moment, the Imperial Hungarian Army, aided by the Serbian Forces launched a counteroffensive at Trieste and the Wop occupation forces. The only chance of failure is of the greasy Eyeties can't run away fast enough.

Vienna-World: Austria votes yes on A-E-F draw.

Vienna-Ankara: No, I don't take candy from babies.

Austria-France: My spies are highly intelligent Turkish-trained ((and presumably toilet-trained too)) diplomats. They speak Flawless Lebanese, so who are you to agiter, mon ami?

Vienna-Moscow: Smooth Move, X-Lax!!

Paris-London: Watch your step.

Mind Flayer: Judging from the Fall results, I think he put his foot in something.

((A perfidious player writing as the)) Mind Flayer-All: I apologize for not giving out better repro's... Also, I should've done those quiz answers, I'm so sad I'm going to cry. ((spoken like a true Albrecht.))

Ankara-Vienna & Moscow: Ha Ho Hee Hee Ha!!

Mind Flayer-Ankara: How about "hee haw, hee haw"? More appropriate.

Ankara-Germany: Did I stick him! What a question.

Ankara-Paree: "Thanks for the beautifuls"? I sent beautiful girls, not "beautifuls".

Ankara-Paris, Moscow, Vienna & Rome: Let's get them foreigners!

Mind Flayer: Ya blockhead, you forgot what nationality your GM is. Now no Canadian player can win this game, I plan to send all your issues two weeks late, and on my next issue I will print a slightly altered Canadian flag... with a dope leaf in lieu of a maple one! Serves ya right, bonzo.

And now to an enjoyable task!!!: the 78E endgame statements.

Commentary, 1978E Italian Victor(Blair Cusack): Few, if any other, original players will read this, so I'll keep it brief.

The 3-build in 1901 set the stage for rapid expansion in a potent R/I alliance. However, Save Head (Russia) wrote me 2 whole letters and a post card during the entire game! Diplomacy, and reaction to my potentially victorious country were slow; lethargic even. I could've been stopped if an effort had been put in by S'06. The "stab" by Russia and Italy was simultaneous and expected by other powers...I had little communication to go on, Russia made a passing attempt to stop the win.

I regret attacking Jan Jensen...I should have stayed with him and attacked the silent Russian instead (but I'd made a commitment to myself to do all I could to stick with my "game-long Russian ally").

Thank you for picking up the game John; after an initial complication or two you smoothed her out very well!

((Why, thank you. It's nice to know someone is grateful.))

This was my first victory as Italy, and tastes particularly sweet when I remember my first diplomacy game ever, 1971-DP, where I got creamed as Italy and eliminated first! You take the good with the bad??

78-E comments(Barry Hickey, Turkish standby):

First of all I must congratulate Blair on his win. It is not often that Italy wins so when it does she has a good player behind her. However I do have some criticisms to make. When I came into this game in S-04 I had written to every player in seeking actions against Italy. I received absolutely no replies which meant to me that the player were resigned to their position. I do not enjoy playing a game where players sit idly by in con-

contentment or squabbling amongst each other in a tug of war over one centre while somebody else grows at their expense. But I suppose those are parts of the game. Perhaps because I am aggressive in the game I expect others to play the same (maybe that's why I was expelled from the International Union of Puppets).

Finally, I appreciate Blair's gesture of Con (and Watson's ((JK here; he must mean 'Masters'))) supports though it was a surprise). It preserved the homeland. I would like to think it is a gesture made by a superior player to one of his equals who had a rough spot plopped into his lap. (God, I'm so modest I'm blushing).

Mind Flayer: I watched this game as a spectator in Arrakis for about six months, and chose to adopt it, when A bit the dirt. It has given me the least trouble of the three orphans I took, and Blair's constant pats on the back made life easier. I admire Barry's tenacity with that puny Turkish position; I saw it when Minicola dropped out. So, gentlemen, I'm happy to have been able to help you. Barry has 'joined' the zine (he's subbed and is playing/standbying), so that's a welcome addition. I know Blair from my second game (1979-K, begun in A, then banished to Infidel), and now we're in four games together. Poor guy!

Here lieth for all time 1978-E.

And now here's Rod Walker with his analysis of 1979-HZ, my demolition game. First, the moves:

A (Trevor Baillie): A Vie-Tri, F Alb-Gre, A Ser S F Alb-Gre.

E (Dave Grabar): A Edi-Nwy, F Nth C A Edi-Nwy, F Nwg S A Edi-Nwy.

F (Ron Brown): A Bur-Bel, A Mar-Spa, Xf Mid-Por.

G (Andy Lischett): A Sil-War, A Pru S A Sil-War, F Den-Swe.

I (John Michalski): A Ven-Tri, A Apu-Tun, F Ion C A Apu-Tun.

R (Steve Colombo): F Fin-StP(sc); F Sev-Bla, A Mos-Sev, A Ukr-Rum.

T (Fred Hyatt): (Resigned): NMR! A's Bul, Arm, F Ank H.

Blair Cusack took over Turkey. SC's:

A(5): Home, Ser, Gre; build two.

E(4): Home, Nwy; Build one.

F(6): Home, Spa, Por, Bel. Build three.

Den & Hol still Neutral.

G(5): Home, War, Swe. Build two.

I(4): Home, Tun. Build one.

R(4): StP, Mos, Sev, W^{ay}, Rum. Even.

T(4): Home, Bul. Build one.

1979-HZ, Fall 1901 analysis:

OK, gore fans, here we go. The east is a mess and the west is organized, so that zaps half of what I wrote last time.

The Turkish NMR was disastrous, although not necessarily for Turkey. It did give Russia a breathing space, but as I see it Russia is doomed anyway. Italy and Austria are obviously planning an attack on Turkey, but they may have to change signals very quickly.

Let us now proceed to the meat of the issue: the Three-Way Western (or FEG) Alliance. I've seen it done. I've done it. The last time was in a FTF game, where the FEG powers were played by Conrad von Metzke, Larry Peery, and myself. But that was a FEG with a difference. By specific agreement, England was to attack Austria, France was to attack Russia, and Germany was to attack Turkey. The resulting tangle of units was hysterical, and confused out victims no end. The game ended in a 7-way draw. Italy tried attacking one way, then the other, and ended up more confused than anybody because everyone refused to attack him and also refused to ally with him.

(cont'd next page)

((JK here; deadline for all games is 23 Feb 80, and I'm converting over the code numbers. Look for yours. Your sub may be on your address label ~~next time~~.)

This is obviously a more normal FEG alliance. This is a very potent combination. It is also a very unstable one. I shall elucidate.

The FEGs are potent because they can zap the opposition quickly. The combination is not an expected one and it can come down like a wolf on the fold with surprising speed. Consider that Russia now cannot defend StP nor Mos for very long. (Question: why did England waste a unit supporting his army into Norway?? There was no opposition. More powerful is F Nrg-Bar, while F Nth convoys A Edi-Nwy.)

At the same time, France and Germany are ideally poised for a breakthrough: Germany through Trl/Boh/Gal into the center, France through the Med. Furthermore, the alliance is powerful because a whole gaggle of supply centres is suddenly in the rear, in reserve: Bel, Den, Hol, Spa, Por, (and, in essence Nwy). Counting Swe, the FEGs have 16 centres tied up with one hand tied behind them. And they also have War in this game; that's 17. StP and Mos will probably fall; that's 19. In other words, what we have here, gentlemen, is a steamroller. And you'd better believe it's gonna roll!

But, The "but" is, how long can this last? If the four eastern powers can reach a quick accommodation and swing into line, they can set up a stalemate line. France and Germany should be able to act quickly enough to punch through it, but that's an alternative for the East. If the game stalemates, the FEG alliance will disintegrate (or the game is drawn).

But it may also disintegrate of itself. Consider: the situation is very awkward for England. Her normal area of expansion is cut off because she is allied with nations which are traditionally her victims. In order to get her share of the spoils, she will have to be given centers which France and/or Germany might normally take. As the war spreads south, England's only access to additional centres is the narrow corridor through StP/Mos. How much does England trust Germany in this case? And since England's main strength is in the rear, how much to France and/or Germany trust England?

This situation is made-to-order for Turkey. He has but to choose one of two options:

1. He can help swing the other eastern powers into an alliance and a stalemate line. He can then expect no worse than a draw. If the FEGs break up, Turkey will be in great shape to attack his erstwhile allies in the rear. He will then normally too powerful to destroy and may win.

2. He can ally with the FEGs! That's more chancy, but he is not directly threatened by them now, won't be for a while, and chances are good they will break up. And the Sultan will hope to pick up the pieces.

This leaves Austria, Italy and Russia caught in the middle. Can a nut fight the nutcracker? Yes, because this is Diplomacy. There are all sorts of diplomatic pressures. The stalemate line is one of the best. Or try threats to give everything to one of the FEGs and stand fast against the other(s). That often creates dissension in the ranks. But don't make a threat you can't carry out.

That seems to be something for everybody. Long term prognosis at this point: scratch Russia. When the FGEs break up, scratch...ah, well, that would be telling.

Finally, the Italian PR from Foggia is obviously black press. Considering Her-Holiness' policies toward the majority of draft-age Italian men, She would never refer to an army as "unused". The author of that outrage will be visited by some of Pope Joan's friends from Sicily. Meanwhile, I have it on the best authority that Her Holiness intends to check out said army to see if she's missed something.

((Well, that was interesting. Rod also had a letter, but I want to blab a little so Andy, I'll send you a copy if you wish.))

Been a long time since I said anything about my personal life. Why not let you in on some of the weirdos they pay to teach here? By far the most unusual is one Mr. Lovrin, the Russian teacher. He's very Slavic, with black wavy hair and a beard, and hails from Yugoslavia. That was 13 years ago, but he still has a very heavy accent. So in his class it's not "And today, we're going to get into the dative case", it's "And today we gonna get into da dative case.". He asks questions like "Vot time it is?" and "You have da assignment ready?", and is generally an interesting person. The problem in his class is that people have a tendency to never quite get used to the accent, so without knowing it or meaning to, when Mr. Lovrin asks "Vere are you going dis weekend?" sometimes one inadvertently responds "I'm not going anywhere; vot about you?". It ain't easy being a student...

Our math/science teacher is ~~was~~ Miss Hollingsworth, a 23-year old, tall girl who seems like she'd much rather be back at WSU as a research chemist. She's from eastern Washington, the farm part, so I sometimes ask her (jokingly) "How's the camel herd?" or "Your dad get all the sand dunes rolled out yet?". She'd make a great GM because her mind was probably mutated from that of Randolph Smyth; always logical in intent. But since she can't visualize dragons, trolls etc, she'd sure flop at D&D. One of the better first-year teachers I've seen.

And then there's also Miss Magnussen, the English teacher. I'm still not sure what to make of her. She's tall too, sleek, and attractive (so is Miss Hollingsworth, but those two are like night and day). She's much more open than many teachers; also, she's a (shudder) liberal, but we get along ok anyway. Member a guy named Phil I mentioned a while back, Jimmy's brother? Would you believe she's his girlfriend? Of course, that gives rise to all sorts of rumours (which I think are hooey), but in this armpit rumours should be taken with a grain of cyanide. If she holds up under all the strain a new teacher runs into here, though, she'll be lucky. I wonder how come she never wants do argue/debate about the political dichotomy that separates us? Maybe because she knows I'm right.

That leaves my band teacher, Miss Orcutt. She's somewhat reserved and shy (like a negative of Miss Magnussen), shorter than me, and pretty competent as teachers go. Considering I get along very well with most all teachers, it comes as no surprise that we're good friends. Despite the fact that I may be the worst cornet player in the section.

Those are all I have this trimester. There's also Mr. Baumgartner (who goes by the first name K; I happen to know his name is Arthur), one of the last of the red hot male chauvinists. He, I, and John Michalski all fit together politically; all conservatives. He teaches shop and social studies, and has a sharp, sarcastic wit. He ought to write political letters in the Brutus Bulletin; he and Mark Berch could really knock heads hard.

Last on the hit list is our Home ec teacher, Mrs. Groves. She's about 62, but no less vigorous than she was 40 years ago, I'll warrant. What's really ludicrous is to see her (at about 4'11") yelling up at some 6'2" monster, like a cardboard box yelling up at the Washington Monument. Out of class, she's jovial and friendly; in class she's strict, businesslike, and at times unreasonable. You can tell when you're right because she's bound to say, "Let's drop the subject..." and allow no further discussion.

Our principal is like a 35-year-old, 5'10" version of Mrs. Groves, but not so crotchety in class. He's also very reasonable, so I can be unsure of an ASB (our student body, of which I am the junior class rep) policy and go into his office and get the story straight. When it comes to discipline he is usually about as flexible as a steel bar, but he has been known to make allowances.

(cont'd from p. 10; I'll explain why later) arrangement. It isn't. It's always possible it happened accidentally. Possible, but not very likely.

Anyway, I intend to continue to call the shots as they appear from here. If some people disagree with me, I'm sure John would be delighted to print their letters." (signed, RodWWalker)

Mind Flayer: No, as I said earlier, I will print no more player-analyst arguing in TB. I think that Rod should try to be just a little less sure (it's not always obvious to me (for example) that all of what a commentator says is a guess) of yourself, so people won't get mad, and Andy, I suggest you simply not worry about the whole thing. Even if Rod says right out, "Andy's incomptetnet", the players in this game are veterans. What Rod says is going to have little effect, I think and hope, on the game's flow, especially among competent veterans like the seven in Hz. Even with ~~rank~~ analyst as well-known as Rod, the analysis is reading matter ~~xxx~~ for the ~~hz~~ subscribers en masse, not meant to influence the game. I think this whole brou-haha could be avoided with a little bit of 'let it ride, be flexible' on both sides. By the way, I already had my p. 10 master's address etc. typed, so when I invited a master I just grabbed it, and didn't realize until way too late my blunder.

JAD

One thing I can't understand, after reading The National #12, and seeing that the CDO is made up of about 40% Americans, is why they seem to tend to ostracise Yankees a little bit. If they don't want us, why don't they just say so; if they do, why build a fence on the border?

Here's a little bit of ha-ha by John Michalski:

THE GAMING PRIMER, PART TWO

See the old man run down the street.

Run, mister, run.

He is running home from school.

Now he stops at a mailbox.

Grab, grab, grab that mail.

Now he runs to the next mailbox.

Grab more mail.

Can he carry it all the way home?

Now he's home.

See the big house.

Big, big, big.

Why does such an old man run to school each day?

He runs the school.

How does a teacher have such a big house?

He teaches deceit.

This house was built by gamefees,

How does he get so many gamefees?

He gets LOTS of mail.

He gets LOTS of gamefees.

Who is this man of leisure?

He is Brian Edwards.

He is Steven Andrews.

He is James Alan sometimes.

He is Becky coffman.

He is Bernie Oaklyn.

Do you believe that?

Want to buy some land in Florida?

Don't tell Mark Berch on me.

....and what do you know? I do have the space for Rod's letter. Beforehand I will say that no more ~~game~~-player-analyst swordswipes will be printed here after this. Do it in a personal letter.

"Well, I see all the beady-eyed nit-pickers are out in force, wanting me to write a book on Diplomacy rather than a review of a game. I've already done the former, so I am restricting myself to the latter. In my mind, a proper review is about a page or so average per season. It is hard to work into that limitation all of the alternatives which are possible.

I suppose you are right that the primary source of the disturbance is that I made my statements declarative rather than conditional. What surprised me most was that Curt Gibson, who drops half the letters from half his words, was upset because I dropped things like "perhaps", "might", "it seems to me", &c. &c. So? It should be obvious to any rational person that a game reviewer is guessing. I see no reason to belabour the obvious, nor to hedge my bets.

The German player is correct in deducing that I have seen none of the correspondence in this game. This is as it should be; why does he bother to argue the obvious? He then proceeds to become quite irate because, with [REDACTED] the orders in front of me, I call the shots as I see them. Sorry about [REDACTED], but that's what reviewers do. I see nothing to be gained by mincing words no by beating about bushes. He usggests I was [REDACTED] in my analysis. Maybe. I don't plan on losing any sleep over it. Anybody who expects a game reviewer to be right all the time is expecting the impossible.

The German player is upset because I implied he is not to be trusted. This is Diplomacy, isn't it? Is anybody to be trusted? If so, he's in the wrong game. As to the question of competence. The German player made a certain set of moves in S01. If he made those moves without first softening up the Russian player with a strong diplomatic offensive, and without making some very precise arrangements with the English and France players, then he is incompetent. According to him, he launched everything he had toward the east without doing much in the way of negotiation and on little more than flimsy Anglo-Franch promises to leave him unmolested in the west. If the German player is any sort of Diplomacy player and (in that instance) if you believe his statement, please contact me; I have a very nice bridge I'd like to sell you. If what the German player said was true, then my long-range prediction stands: scratch Germany.

As to the Tyrolia standoff: I don't recall saying it was the best (cont'd. 1-
G-38 old code # | new chemical symbol → Sub 10 X Do Sudarca! top)

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